



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

STATE GUIDANCE

To: National School Lunch Program Sponsors
From: Mary Jo Marshall, Child Nutrition Program Specialist
Date: February 1, 2005
Subject: Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) in Schools
Reauthorization 2004: Implementation Memo – SP 11,
Policy Memo SP-05-14

Section 111 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265) amended section 9(h) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act by requiring school food authorities (SFAs) to implement a food safety program. The Reauthorization Act requires that, during the preparation and service of meals, the SFA comply with a HACCP system established by the Secretary of Agriculture. The law requires compliance with this requirement by July 1, 2005.

We are aware that schools are eager to develop their implementation plans and would like to receive guidance as soon as possible. We are working with staff from the FNS Food Safety Unit, the Food Safety Inspection Service, and the Food and Drug Administration to develop correct and practical HACCP guidance. We are also organizing a workgroup with State and local education officials, along with officials from agriculture and health agencies who have HACCP knowledge and experience. This workgroup will help us develop HACCP guidance that is in line with local SFA capabilities and needs.

We recognize that many SFAs participating in the school meal programs already follow food safety procedures and will do their best to implement HACCP in a timely fashion. We plan to have HACCP guidance available in spring 2005 and envision that SFAs will be in the process of implementing HACCP by the beginning of SY 2005-2006. We are asking State agencies to inform their SFAs about the HACCP requirement and that the USDA will be providing implementation guidance.

If you have any questions regarding this HACCP requirement please contact our office at 208-332-6820.